1. (Currently Amended) In a system for distributed computing in a health care environment in which multiple different applications are in use connected on a common computer network, the improvement comprising

a clinical exchange server on the network, the clinical exchange server including memory, the clinical exchange server programmed (i) to maintain a patient identification cross reference table, the patient identification cross reference table including a list of applications on the network and patient identification numbers used by each application wherein ~~at least a subset of~~ the patient identification numbers used by the applications are application distinct numbers for the patient, (ii) to maintain a list of events reported to it by other applications on the network and (iii) to respond to inquiries from a first application about an event recorded by a second application by transmitting a query to the second application based on the information in the reference table and the list of reported events.

2. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the clinical exchange server also maintains an abstract about the events sent to it to facilitate exchange of information between the applications.

3. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reference table includes a master patient index identification code assigned to the patient as well as an application specific identification number assigned to the patient by each application.

4. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the clinical exchange server also stores health insurance information about each patient so that such health insurance information can easily be accessed by any of the applications.

5. (Previously Presented) A computer network for operation by a healthcare delivery enterprise, the network including a plurality of servers operating a plurality of application programs, the network comprising

a clinical exchange server including a storage device, the clinical exchange server programmed to store in the storage device a reference table, the reference table including a master patient identifier for each patient, a list of application programs, and any separate identifying code used for the patient by any of the application programs wherein ~~at least a subset of~~ the identifying codes are application specific patient identifying codes for the patient, so that the identifying code used by an application for a patient can be found by accessing the reference table, the clinical exchange server further programmed to facilitate information exchange between the applications by using the reference table to extract information from an application requested by another application.

6. (Original) The computer network of claim 5 wherein the clinical exchange server also maintains a table of events associated with patients, the table of events including identifying information about the events and the identification of the application holding information about the event.

7. (Original) The computer network of claim 6 wherein the event table also includes an abstract about each of the events.

8. (Original) The computer network of claim 5 wherein the clinical exchange server also maintain health insurance information about the patient that can be access by another application.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (New) A method for use with a system for distributed computing in a health care environment in which multiple different applications are in use connected on a common computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a clinical exchange server on the network, the clinical exchange server including memory in which a reference table and a list of events are maintained where the reference table includes a list of applications on the network and patient identification numbers used by each application wherein the patient identification numbers used by the applications are application distinct numbers for the patient, the list of events including a list of events reported to the clinical exchange server by other applications on the network;

when an inquiry is received from a first application about an event recorded by a second application, the clinical exchange server transmitting a query to the second application based on the information in the reference table and the list of reported events.

15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of providing a clinical exchange server includes providing a clinical exchange server that also maintains an abstract about each event sent to the clinical exchange server to facilitate exchange of information between the applications.

16. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the reference table includes a master patient index identification code assigned to the patient as well as an application specific identification number assigned to the patient by each application.

17. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of providing a clinical exchange server includes providing a clinical exchange server that also stores health insurance information about each patient so that such health insurance information can easily be accessed by any of the applications.

18. (New) A method for use with a computer network for operation by a healthcare delivery enterprise, the network including a plurality of servers operating a plurality of application programs, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a clinical exchange server including a storage device, the clinical exchange server programmed to store in the storage device a reference table, the reference including a master patient identifier for each patient, a list of application programs, and any separate identifying code used for the patient by any of the application programs wherein the identifying codes are application specific identifying codes for the patient, so that the identifying code used by an application for a patient can be found by accessing the reference table;

programming the clinical exchange server to facilitate information exchange between the applications by using the reference table to extract information from an application requested by another application.